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Letter No. 2338

November 11, 1987

**PROJECTED USSR  
WHEAT IMPORTS**

Due to the U.S. offer to sell the USSR 2 million 400 thousand tons of U.S. wheat under the Export Enhancement Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has increased the 1987/88 forecast of Soviet wheat imports by 1 million tons to 18 million. The projected total grain imports have also been raised 1 million to 29 million tons.

**U.S. WHEAT  
EXPORTS RAISED**

Projected U.S. wheat exports have been raised 75 million bushels to 1 billion 350 million bushels, 34 percent above 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This reflects larger Soviet imports and an increase in the U.S. market share. Since recent Soviet wheat imports have been entirely Hard Red winter wheat, it was assumed that any new Soviet purchase would be Hard Red winter wheat. Projected U.S. 1987/88 ending stocks at 1 billion 390 million bushels would be the lowest since 1981/82.

**WORLD WHEAT  
PRODUCTION  
HIGHLIGHTS -  
1987/88**

The world production of wheat for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 500 million 900 thousand metric tons, down 6 million 500 thousand or 1 percent from last month and down 5 percent from last year's record harvest. Important changes from a month ago include: European Community production, estimated at 72 million 100 thousand tons, down 1 million 300 thousand or 4 percent from last month, but up slightly from last year. East Europe production is estimated at 38 million 500 thousand tons, down 1 million 300 thousand or 3 percent from last months and down marginally from last year. China production is estimated at 87 million tons, down 1 million from last month and 4 percent from last year's record.

**WORLD COARSE  
GRAIN - 1987/88**

The world coarse grains production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 797 million 300 thousand tons, down less than 1 percent from last month, and down 4 percent from last year. Important changes from last month include: U.S. production is estimated at 218 million tons, up less than 1 percent from last month, but down 14 percent from last year. Higher estimated corn yields offset reductions in sorghum and oats yields. East Europe, estimated at 63 million 800 thousand tons, down 5 percent from last month and 13 percent from last year. European Community, estimated at 80 million 200 thousand tons, down 2 percent from last month and 1 percent from last year. China, estimated at 96 million 200 thousand tons, up 3 percent from last month and up 11 percent from last year.

SALES TO  
USSR

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, private exporters reported on Nov. 10 the following sales to the USSR: 400,000 tons of soybeans for delivery during the 1987-88 marketing year...150,000 tons of soybean meal during 1987-88. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the fifth year of the agreement total 1,665,800 tons, of which wheat is 65,000 tons and corn, 1,600,800 tons.

1987 SOVIET  
CROP ESTIMATE  
UNCHANGED

The 1987 Soviet grain crop estimate remains unchanged at 210 million tons, including 80 million 500 thousand tons of wheat ...114 million 500 thousand tons coarse grains...and 15 million miscellaneous grains and pulses. In a speech on Nov. 2, General Sec'y Gorbachev stated that this year's harvest would be above 210 million tons.

ESTIMATED  
WORLD OILSEEDS

The world production of oilseeds for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 202 million 800 thousand tons, up 4 percent from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 61 million 100 thousand tons, down 59,000 tons or less than 1 percent from last month, but up 3 percent from last year. Foreign production is estimated at 141 million 700 thousand tons, up 100 thousand or less than 1 percent from last month and up 5 percent from last year.

WORLD SOYBEANS  
PRODUCTION -  
1987/88

The world production of soybeans for 1987/88 is estimated at a record 101 million 900 thousand tons, up 500 thousand or less than 1 percent from last month but up 4 percent from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 53 million 300 thousand tons, down less than 1 percent from last month, but up 1 percent from last year.

WORLD COTTON  
PRODUCTION -  
1987/88  
ESTIMATES

The world cotton production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 77 million 100 thousand bales, down 1 percent from last month but up 11 percent from a year ago. Foreign output is estimated at 63 million 100 thousand bales, down 2 percent from last month, but up 6 percent from 1986/87. U.S. production is estimated at 13 million 900 thousand bales, up 4 percent from last month and up 43 percent from last year.

U.S. WILL  
CONTINUE  
ASSISTANCE

At a meeting of the 24th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng said, "The United States will continue to be a major supplier of development assistance to other parts of the world...It is also probable that assistance will be increasingly channeled to countries that make the greatest effort to establish national economic policies which provide incentives to unleash human energies and responsibly harness national resources."

GOVERNMENT  
POLICIES INTERFERE  
WITH ECONOMY

At the FAO Conference in Room one Nov. 10, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng said, "The problems and disarray facing the world today in agricultural production and trade are largely the result of government policies that interfere with the economic process. These policies have too often provided incentives for uneconomic production, and have curtailed demand and consumer choice." He further said that the upcoming Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations offer "a historic opportunity to achieve fundamental reforms that will bring about balanced growth and improved agricultural performance."



OUTLOOK  
CONFERENCE ON  
RADIO SATELLITE

Selected sessions of the 1987 Outlook Conference will be available live on Westar IV, Transponder 2X, Frequency 64.3, 2:1 Compending, and 75 sec pre-emphasis. The session will be Dec. 1, 10:30-12:30 Keynote address, Sec'y of Agric. Richard Lyng and outlook summations; Dec. 1, 1:30-2:00 p.m. "U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook and Trade Issues"; Dec. 2, 11:00-12:15 "Generic Certificates"; and Dec. 3, 10:45-12:00 "Distinguished Panel on Trade and Policy Directions," moderated by Sec'y Lyng.

FRUIT FLIES  
& MED FLIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is affirming its July 17 decision to quarantine portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in Calif. to prevent the spread of Oriental fruit flies. The regulations prohibit interstate movement of certain varieties of fruits, vegetables, nuts and berries from quarantined areas unless accompanied by a certificate or limited permit issued by a USDA inspector, or meet other established conditions. The USDA also lifted a quarantine imposed on Dade County, Florida, to prevent the spread of the Med fruit fly. The infestation had been eradicated.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1589...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition Jim Johnson talks with Oregon State research entomologist Jeffrey Miller about the Gypsy Moth control program. Officials in this State are trying to eradicate this problem pest before it gets a foothold.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1578...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farming highly erodible cropland; New Agriculture Yearbook; The alternative of fish farming; A program called resource conservation and development.

CONSUMER TIME #1069...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Heart disease and diabetes; Caring for Alzheimer's patients; The future of smoking; New turkey types; Helping children stay in school.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Nov. 30, Agricultural prices outlook; Tues, Dec. 1 thru 3, USDA's 1988 Ag. Outlook Conference. See special satellite schedule of events. Fri, Dec. 4, Economic indicators of the farm sector. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, Audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X  
ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 9X  
UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D  
REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D  
UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Friday 11:00 a.m. ET.

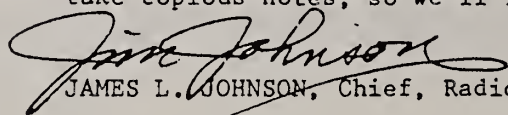
OFF MIKE

Mike Perrine is the new kid on the block in the WGN farm department in Chicago. He joins Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong. Mike left WJIL, Jacksonville, IL, the end of October. Cindy Young, who was an assistant to Mike at WJIL, is the station's new farm broadcaster. Incidentally, Orion spent the last week in October in Madrid, Spain at the World Food Production Conference ... And speaking of traveling, Brian Baxter (Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN) is off in Egypt and Turkey, courtesy of the Feed Grains Council, with his associate producer Pete Kaiser. To quote Brian's co-worker Wayne Jenkins, "The peripatetic duo is at it again." They return the 23rd ... Latest newsletter from Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Claire, WI) reports he's about filled up on his winter farm tour, which this year will be to agricultural areas of Arizona via Las Vegas. He speculates about the wisdom of making the first tour stop in Las Vegas. That comes under the heading of "calculated risk," Bob ... Gary Truitt has a new address and

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phone number: 9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 725, Indianapolis, phone 317-844-7484. Wabash Valley Broadcasting Corp. recently bought the network ... John Berg (KSL, Salt Lake City, UT) recently received the "Contributors to Agriculture" award from the Utah and Idaho Farmers's Union ... Along the same lines, and equal helping of congratulations, Verne Sheppard (KTOQ radio and KEVN-TV, Rapid City, SD) received a plaque of appreciation for "Outstanding support for the agricultural industry." Verne recently formed a new farm department at the stations ... No doubt by the time you read this, the NAFB meeting in Kansas City will be history. Don Elder, our Radio and TV Division deputy chief, attended, along with Nelson Robinson (ASCS Radio/TV Chief, Washington, D.C. We couldn't make it this year, the first year we've missed in the last 12 years. Don promised to take copious notes, so we'll report the highlights next week.



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division